TATSUYA-SAMA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WOW, THAT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
THANK YOU FOR BUYING IT FOR ME, REALLY.
AH, DON'T MENTION IT.
I MEAN, YOUR USUAL OUTFIT IS JUST SO HOT...
IT ACTUALLY SHINES.
?
CHAPTER 6:
THE DEMON LORD OF CURRY

I'VE FINALLY DONE IT.
There it is...
Rice!
Rustle
NOW I'M GROWING BEAN SPROUTS, CARROTS, AND RICE...
WHEAT, TOO, SO I CAN MAKE BREAD.
FRUITS OF SOME SORT HAVE BEEN CROPPING UP AS WELL.

THE PALMTOP RABBITS GATHER MEAT AND EGGS FOR ME.
I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY I'VE GOT MY NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OUT OF THE WAY.
LUCKILY, MARIA'S GOT A LONG HISTORY AS AN ADVEN-TURER...
SO SHE KNOWS HER WAY AROUND THINGS LIKE COOKING AND CLEANING.
Flap
SONIA DOES ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
SHE'S A TOTAL NEET.
I GUESS SHE SAVES ALL THAT ENERGY FOR THE EVENINGS... IT'S TERRIFYING, HONESTLY.

BOAR AND DEATH HAWK EGGS, HUH?
I'VE GOT A FEW THOUSAND SAVED UP IN OFFERINGS . . .
WE'RE HAVING KATSU CURRY TONIGHT!
Yaaaaay!
KATSU CURRY?
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, RIGHT. THE ONLY TIME I'VE MADE IT HERE WAS FOR THE LITTLE PALMTOP RABBITS.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT'S THE WORLD'S MOST BELOVED DISH.
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE CURRY, PER-SONALLY.
OOH, THIS IS EXCITING!
HURRY UP, I WANNA TRY IT!
JUST YOU WAIT, IT'LL BE THE BEST THING YOU'VE EVER HAD!
Bubble
Bubble
Bubble
Pshh Pshh
Pshh
KNOCK
KNOCK
HM?

WHO IS IT?
CREAK
HMM...
QUITE THE PECULIAR COMPANY YOU'RE KEEPING ...
HUH?
TAP
TAP

IT HATH BEEN SOME TIME, MARIA.
IT WAS QUITE THE COMMOTION YOU CAUSED AT THE CAPITAL.
...
SHP
IT IS AN HONOR TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
CORNELIA-SAMA.
HEY, MARIA...
WHO THE HECK IS THIS TINY LOOKING GRANDMA?
SHH!
SHE IS ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON LORDS...
AN ECCENTRIC WOMAN, WHO HAS CHOSEN TO LEAVE BEHIND THE STRIFE OF THE MAGIC WORLD. SHE LIVES IN SECLUSION ON THE HUMAN REALM'S BORDER ALONG WITH HER ASSOCIATES.
Whisper
Whisper
DEMON LORD...
A FANTASY CLASSIC!

WHILE HER HUMANOID APPEARANCE MAY RESEMBLE A CUTE YOUNG GIRL...
HER TRUE FORM IS THAT OF THE REALM'S MOST WICKED UMBRAL WYRM...
THE FANTASY LEVELS ARE OFF THE CHARTS!
THOU OVER THERE.
HOW DIDST THEE TAME BOTH THAT SUCCUBUS AND THE QUEEN OF THE PALMTOP RABBITS?

TAME THEM? NO, I...
THEY JUST DECIDED TO STAY HERE ON THEIR OWN...
HM...
MARIA ASIDE...
I VERY MUCH DOUBT IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE THING TO PERSUADE THE PALMTOP RABBITS TO MY SIDE.
ARM THYSELF.
AGH...
THIS AGAIN?
CLENCH
NOT THAT I CAN REALLY REFUSE...

I SEE.
AND A MAN, NO LESS.
THE BOTH OF THESE GIRLS ARE OF RACES KNOWN TO BOW BEFORE THOSE THEY DEEM POWERFUL. NO WONDER, THEN...
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT MYSELF...

SO, WHAT BUSINESS WOULD A DEMON LORD HAVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME?
...
ZWOOM
THE MAGICAL BEINGS THOU HAST GATHERED NUMBER TOO MANY.
THOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE MINE OWN SUBJECTS, IT DOTH PROVIDE NO EXCUSE FOR ACTING QUITE SO FREELY.
EEK!
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT

LOOM
NOT ONLY THAT...
THOU HAST TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN MY GARDEN...
WITHOUT SO MUCH AS OFFERING A GREETING.
MINE EVIL CYCLOPS, BESTED AS WELL.
THEREFORE, I DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO ENACT SOMETHING OF A PURGE.
...
OH? THE RABBIT LACKS NAUGHT BY WAY OF FIGHTING SPIRIT!
WHAT OF THEE, MARIA?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

H-HOLD ON, DEMON LORD!
YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAME TO PICK A FIGHT?!
OH, ART THOU VOLUNTEERING?
N-NO, I'D REALLY RATHER NOT!
...
fwsh
MAYHAP THOU ART CORRECT. IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO FIGHT THEE.
I SHALL PUT IT ON HOLD FOR NOW
BEING REFERRED TO AS A DEMON LORD DOTH SERVE ONLY TO HASTEN MINE ANGER.
THOUGH I WOULD NOT DECLINE A BATTLE WITH THEE...

I DO NOT WISH TO BEAR ANY UNNECESSARY RISKS.
IF TALKING WILL SUFFICE, THEN SO BE IT.
CORNELIA-SAMA...
AVOIDED A FIGHT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHE BELIEVES YOUR POWER TO BE A MATCH FOR HER OWN, MEANING NEITHER SIDE WOULD MAKE IT OUT UNSCATHED...
THAT'S HOW SHE SEES YOU. ORDINARILY, IT'D BE UNTHINKABLE!
THE GRANDMA, TOO?!
FIRST MARCUS, NOW HER... WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
IT'S JUST A REGULAR OLD HOE! MY FARMING TOOL PROFICIENCY SKILL MUST BE DOING SOME SERIOUS HEAVY LIFTING HERE...
Whsh
Whsh
BY THE WAY...
THIS SMELL...
OH, YOU RECOGNIZE IT?

SURELY THOU DOTH JEST...
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE LAST I SMELLED THIS.
Boar Katsu Curry
Ingredients: Boar meat, Rice, Death Hawk egg, Store-bought curry roux, Breadcrumbs, Wheat flour, Carrots
MAY I?
Nod
Nom

MMM!
Tee hee
CURRY REALLY IS JUST THE BEST! DELICIOUS!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE JAPANESE! YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE CURRY?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
SLAP
...
SLAP
TO THINK WE ALMOST GOT INTO A FIGHT!
WHAT THE HELL?
ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE'S GOTTEN SUPER UPBEAT...

SO, BASICALLY, SOMEONE ELSE FROM MY WORLD MADE IT FOR YOU ONCE UPON A TIME?
IS THAT RIGHT?
INDEED. IT HAS BEEN MY FAVORITE EVER SINCE.
I WOULD GLADLY LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR KATSU CURRY!
GIVE ME A BREAK HERE.
HUH? DO YOU NOT LIKE CARROTS?
NO, I DISLIKE ALL VEGETA-BLES.
WHAT ARE YOU, A KID?!
...
Ahh~
Pinch
Nom

CLAP
...
ANYWAY ...

THOU ART NOW MINE CLOSEST FRIEND!
I WONDER WHY...
THEY SEEM TO KEEP GATHERING AROUND ME FOR JUST A LITTLE FOOD...

I SHALL RETURN FOR MORE CURRY!
I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF THOU WOULDST INVITE ME AGAIN.
SURE.
BY THE WAY, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
OVER THERE!
THERE'S A BUILDING UP THERE, HUH?
THAT'S A PRETTY HUGE HOUSE YOU'VE GOT THERE...

WELL, I AM A DEMON LORD!
IT WOULDN'T DO FOR ME TO LIVE IN ANYTHING LESS!
Farewell!
SO, IN THE END...
CORNELIA SHOWED HERSELF OUT.

THE NEXT DAY.
OH NO, THIS IS BAD~!
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
FWAHH
SOME MONSTERS ARE TAKING OUR CROPS!
ZZZ
ZZZ
YOU SEEM AWFULLY RELAXED ABOUT ALL THIS...
WELL, THE CARROTS ARE SAFE!
YEAH, WHATEVER.

Creak
GEEZ...
NORMALLY, THE PALMTOP RABBITS TAKE CARE OF GUARDING THE CROPS.
OCCASIONALLY, ANIMALS OR MONSTERS GET IN WHILE THEY'RE OUT HUNTING...
BUT I DEAL WITH THOSE WITH A LITTLE "KABOOM".
UHH...

SHHP
Stomp
Stomp

WELL, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
IT REALLY ISN'T~
MY CROPS...
HOW DID THEY...?
YOU THERE. IS THIS YOUR FARM?

MY NAME IS OUROBOROS.
I'M ONE OF CORNELIA-SAMA'S ASSOCIATES.
I GUESS IF CORNELIA'S AN UMBRAL WYRM, IT'D MAKE SENSE FOR HER SUBORDINATES TO BE REPTILES.
OUROBOROS... WASN'T THAT SOME KINDA SNAKE?
WHY ARE YOU DESTROYING MY FIELDS?

YOUR TAXES.
WE WILL TAKE AS MANY CARROTS AS THE PALMTOP RABBITS ALLOW.
SOLD TO THE NOBLES OF THE MAGIC REALM, THEY ARE WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.
TAXES?
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO...
SILENCE.
YOU ARE AWARE THAT YOU ARE SQUATTING IN CORNELIA-SAMA'S TERRITORY, ARE YOU NOT?

HUNTING AND FARMING HERE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD TO CORNELIA-SAMA. YOUR INSOLENCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS.
I SHALL CONFISCATE YOUR COIN, TOO.
ANYTHING OF VALUE IN THAT HUT WILL BE SEIZED.
STILL, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY.
IF CORNELIA-SAMA HERSELF WERE HERE, YOU WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN REDUCED TO ASH.
HOLD ON...
CORNELIA CAME BY JUST YESTER-DAY!
SHE SAID SHE'D BE BACK AGAIN TO HANG OUT...
SHE DID?

BWA HA HA HA HA!
CORNELIA-SAMA! HANGING OUT WITH YOU! A HUMAN!
EVEN FOR A FOOL, THIS IS TOO MUCH!
NO, REALLY...
THE ONLY WAY THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN...
WOULD BE IF YOU KNEW HOW TO MAKE CURRY!
THE DEMON LORD OF CURRY.

YOU LYING IMBECILE ...
WHILE I AM FRANKLY AMAZED AT SUCH INSUBORDI-NATION...
AS HER SUBJECT, I CANNOT LET THIS SLIDE.
SWP
CHANGE OF PLANS!
USE AS MUCH FORCE AS YOU WISH!
ONCE THE LAND HAS BEEN LOOTED, DESTROY IT!

GROOAAAR
Whoosh
STOP!

SMASH

LAY A HAND ON MY CARROTS...
AND I MIGHT JUST GET A LITTLE MAD~
Wink
VERMIN ---
YOU WISH TO DIE THAT BADLY?
Tremble
Tremble

GREETINGS!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
OH, CORNELIA...
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU'D BE BACK, BUT IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A FULL DAY...
I HAVE COME FOR MORE KATSU CURRY!
BACK TO BACK?!
I NEED MINE MORNING CURRY!
MAN, THAT'S SOME STOMACH YOU'VE GOT...

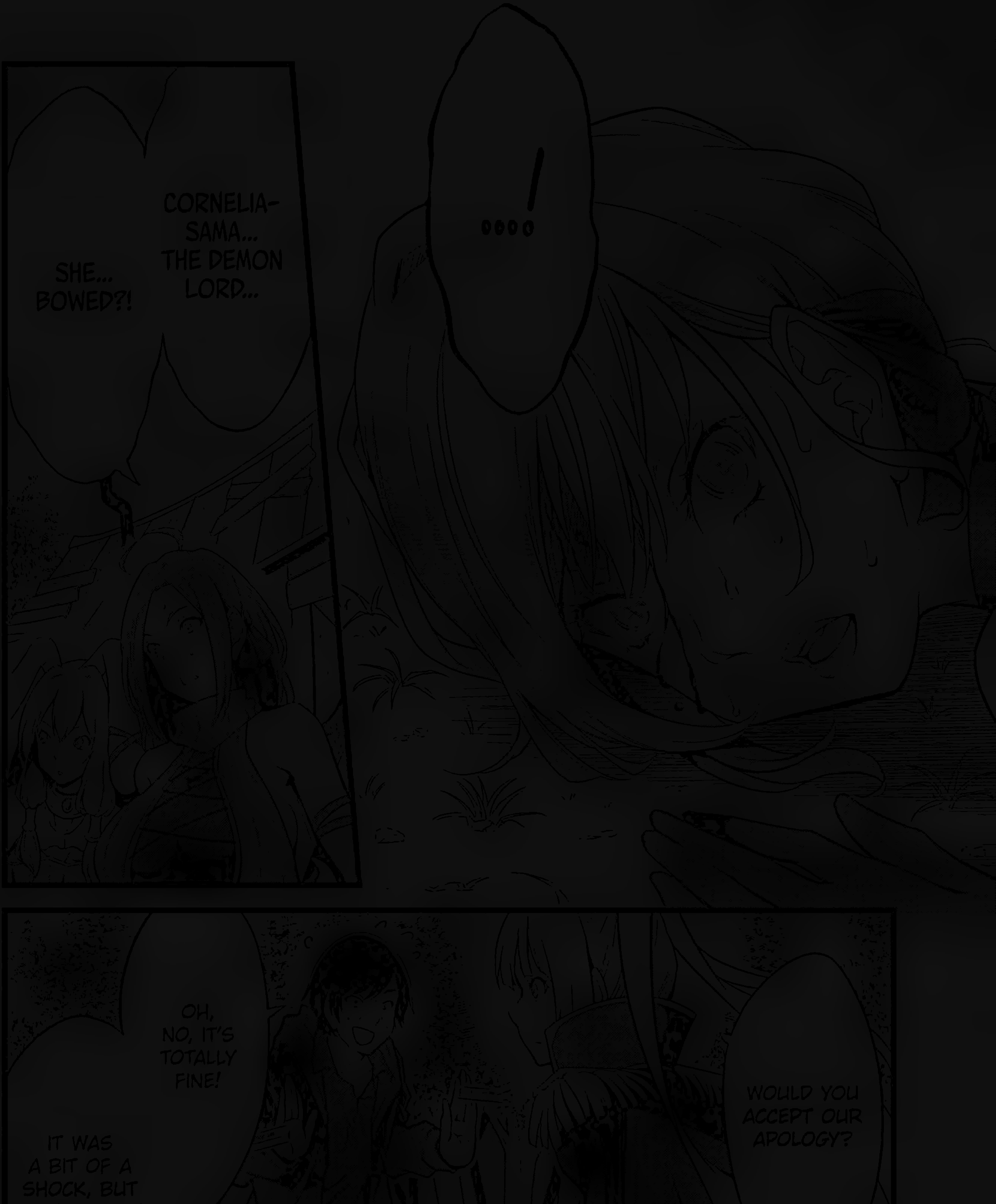
BY THE WAY, WHY ARE OUROBOROS AND THE CYCLOPS HERE?
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW. THEY'RE YOUR SUBJECTS, AREN'T THEY?
THEY JUST STARTED TALKING ABOUT TAXES AND TAKING EVERYTHING WE HAVE...
OURO-BOROS?
SLMP
YES...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

A FEW DAYS AGO, WE RECEIVED A REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE A MYSTERIOUS FARMER...
I THOUGHT TO MAKE HIM PAY FOR HIS CONTEMPTUOUS BEHAVIOR IN YOUR GARDEN, CORNELIA-SAMA...
What's this about?
Dunno.
HMM?
DID I NOT SEND THEE A LETTER YESTERDAY?
THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS ABODE IS MINE MOST TREASURED FRIEND, AND THOU SHALT TREAT HIM ACCORDINGLY.
....!
DIDST THOU NOT SEE IT?
...
I BELIEVE... WE JUST MISSED EACH OTHER...

Hah...
...
OURO-BOROS ...
TAX?
RUMBLE
MAKE HIM PAY?
EEK...
RUMBLE
WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT THINE INTENT TO INFLICT UPON MY DEAREST FRIEND?
THIS IS THINE MISTAKE IN NOT SEEING MINE LETTER...
PETTY EXCUSES SHALL NOT SERVE TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS MATTER...
RUMBLE

Shiver
AHH...
I... I...
SLAM SLAM
I BEG YOUR PARDON, CORNELIA-SAMA!
FORGIVE ME! FORGIVE ME!
SLAM
SLAM
I WAS NOT AWARE THIS ESTEEMED GENTLEMAN WAS YOUR FRIEND...
SHOCK
Yikes...
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!
TIS NOT I WHOM THOU SHOULDST BE APOLO-GIZING TO.
...
SWP

THOUGH I WAS NOT AWARE...
YOU HAVE MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES...
ONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR SUBJECTS' MISDEEDS.
IT WOULD APPEAR MINE ORDERS WERE NOT MADE CLEAR.
THOUGH THAT AGAIN IS BUT AN EXCUSE.
I TOO SHALL APOLOGIZE FOR OUROBOROS' WRONGDOINGS.
BOW
PLEASE, FORGIVE US.


....!
CORNELIA-SAMA... THE DEMON LORD...
SHE... BOWED?!
WOULD YOU ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY?
OH, NO, IT'S TOTALLY FINE!
IT WAS A BIT OF A SHOCK, BUT YOU'VE BOTH APOLOGIZED A WHOLE BUNCH, SO…

STILL, THIS IS QUITE CONCERNING.
IT WOULD NOT DO FOR MY FRIENDS TO SUFFER AS A RESULT OF UNCLEAR ORDERS ON MY BEHALF…
OURO-BOROS.
YES!
JOLT!
BRING ME MINE BELOVED EVIL DRAGON ROD.
CORNELIA-SAMA?! SURELY YOU DON'T INTEND TO…

THIS GENTLEMAN IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
INDEED. YOU SEE...
CHK
THIS HUMAN KNOWS HOW TO MAKE KATSU CURRY.
HE IS SO VALUABLE, IN FACT, IT WOULD NOT BE AN EXAGGERATION TO CONSIDER HIM AN EXTENSION OF MYSELF. HE IS WORTH THE COST.
I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I SURE AM GLAD I CAN MAKE KATSU CURRY!
HEY... WHAT'S THIS THING YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
JUST WATCH.
ZWOOM

Sheenk

HUH?!
AH!
THAT'S... THE GODWYRM'S WARD!
INDEED!
CONFERRING IT TO THE VERY GROUND ITSELF IS UNHEARD OF!
ZWOOOSH
WHAT'S THAT?!

YOU KNOW HOW DRAGONS COLLECT TREASURE, DON'T YOU?
W-WELL, YEAH. DEFEATING THE DRAGON AND MAKING OFF WITH THE TREASURE IS A PRETTY STANDARD FANTASY TROPE.
THIS MEANS YOUR HUT, AS WELL AS THE SURROUNDING AREA, WILL BE DEEMED A DRAGON HOARD.
HENCE, YOU YOURSELF WILL BE CONSIDERED PART OF CORNELIA-SAMA'S TREASURE...
AND A BARRIER IMPENETRABLE TO MONSTERS WILL BE FORMED ALONG THE EDGE OF ITS BOUNDARY.
CORRECT, FOR THE MOST PART.
ALTHOUGH, IT IS MORE OF A MARK THAN A WARD.
SHIK

MARK?
THIS IS A SIGN THAT MINE TREASURE LIES HERE.
ANY TROUBLE CAUSED WITHIN ITS DOMAIN IS AKIN TO PERSONAL PROVOCATION.
MAGICAL BEASTS SHALL SENSE MINE MAGIC AND KEEP THEIR DISTANCE.
THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO COMPREHEND LANGUAGE SHALL INSTANTLY KNOW THE MEANING OF THE BARRIER AS THEY ENTER IT.
...
IF ANY ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO PURPOSELY INCUR MY WRATH, WELL...
SO, BASICALLY, NO MORE TROUBLE INSIDE THE BOUNDARY, RIGHT?

PUT SIMPLY, YES.
THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT WOULD NOT WORK ON HUMANS...
IT WOULD WARN ANY HIGH-LEVEL MAGES SEEKING ENTRY.
THANKS FOR SAVING ME THE TROUBLE OF DEALING WITH ALL THE PESTS, I APPRECIATE IT.
YOU MUSTN'T TAKE THIS LIGHTLY, TATSUYA-SAMA...
ONLY ONE TREASURE BARRIER MAY BE IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.
THAT MEANS CORNELIA-SAMA DISSOLVED THE BARRIER SHE ALREADY HAD!

SHOCK
HUH?!
I-IS THAT REALLY OKAY?!
OF COURSE! THOU ART MY ESTEEMED FRIEND, AFTER ALL!
I SHALL NOT SUFFER A REPUTATION AS A MISER!
THOU MAYEST ALSO TAKE IT AS COMPENSATION FOR MINE SUBJECT'S ACTIONS.
NOW, OUROBOROS.
HOW SHALL I DEAL WITH THEE?
YES... I'M WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY PUNISHMENT.

COME ON, IT'S OKAY NOW!
NO, SHE MUST TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR TEARS.
HMM... LET ME THINK.
THOU SHALT SERVE HERE AS A MAID AND TAKE CARE OF ALL HOUSEHOLD CHORES.
MAY THAT ABATE THINE TEMPER.
HEY, YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE ...
IT DOTH NOT BEAR REPEATING, BUT THOU SHALT GIVE THINE ALL TO SERVING THIS GENTLEMAN.
...
AS YOU WISH, CORNELIA-SAMA...

WITH THAT SAID...
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MINE MORNING CURRY NOW.
TALK ABOUT BEING IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD...
BUT I GUESS I'LL MAKE ANOTHER GOOD ONE AS THANKS FOR THE GODWYRM'S WARD!
YAY! THOU ART TOO KIND!
FARE THEE WELL FOR NOW!
I SHALL RETURN AGAIN FOR THINE CURRY!
DON'T YOU EVER GET SICK OF IT?
I COULD EAT CURRY FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER WITHOUT A PROBLEM.
SMUG
HUH...

RIGHT, I'LL MAKE YOU A CURRY HOT POT SOMETIME.
OH?! CURRY HOT POT?!
SWFF
SWFF
KNOCK KNOCK
HM?
Creak
WHAT IS THIS?
Rustle
Love, Cornelia ♡

RIGHT.
I GUESS I'LL GET STARTED ON GROWING CABBAGE AND ONIONS FOR THE HOT POT.
Shwoom
...
Swip
WHOA!

W-WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS OUTFIT...
MASTER?
...
Daze
...!
IT REALLY SUITS YOU.

PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME, MASTER.
SWP
DO NOT HESITATE TO VOICE ANY COMPLAINTS YOU MAY HAVE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF, YOU KNOW?
THESE WERE CORNELIA-SAMA'S ORDERS.
BESIDES, I AM USED TO TAKING CARE OF THE MANOR.
PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO REMAIN HERE.
IF THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.
ALSO... DESPITE MY PREVIOUS APPEARANCE...
I HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE.
EXPERIENCE?

As we must share a room...
I believed it was only proper to inform you of my inexperience in such matters.
Sproing
HOWEVER, I AM PREPARED . . .
H-H-HOLD ON A MINUTE! CORNELIA DIDN'T GO THAT FAR, DID SHE?!
NO.
I AM A WOMAN. I WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES ON MERE ORDERS, EVEN CORNELIA'S.
I SPEAK OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

You are Cornelia's treasured friend, Master.
Furthermore, I now sense an incredible amount of power in you that I did not earlier.
Squeeze ♡
For the second time in my life...
I can feel there is merit in giving my all to you.
C-C-Calm down... This is moving way too fast.
Besides, this whole thing came from you being made to serve me as punishment...
I mean, look at me! I'm just a regular guy!

Are you really ...
So disin-clined?
I would love nothing more.
SO, LONG STORY SHORT.
OUR LITTLE HUT GAINED YET ANOTHER RESIDENT.